

ATHOUS SUBFUSCUS (MÜLLER) (COL.: ELATERIDAE)
IN SOUTHERN ENGLAND

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On 2nd July 1983 I boxed a specimen of this beetle from the underside of a leaf of a mountain ash tree (*Sorbus aucuparia* L.) growing on the slopes of Leith Hill in Surrey. It was retained because of its small size compared to the common *A. haemorrhoidalis* (F.), itself present in some numbers on the foliage of bracken nearby. The specimen keyed out in Joy (1932, *A Practical Handbook of British Beetles* 1: 446-117) as this species but remained problematic since this author (l.c.) allocates it solely to Orkney and Shetland. To solve this I took the specimen to the British Museum (Natural History) where it was confirmed as indeed *subfuscus*.

Quite how this (in Britain) northern species should suddenly appear in southern England is a matter for conjecture. There is plenty of conifer planting carried out in this locality by the Forestry Commission and this species could have been brought here from the Continent with sapling trees although a parallel may be drawn with the case of *Nudobius lentus* (Grav.). After being a purely Scottish insect (Joy, *op. cit.*, p.129) this beetle suddenly turned up in the south and has since spread widely (Steel, 1949, *Entomologist's mon Mag.* 85: 47 *et seq.*). *Nudobius* was found to be present at Leith Hill in August 1983.

Finally it may be added that other specimens of *subfuscus* have been taken recently in Surrey (P. M. Hammond *pers. comm.*). On the Continent the species is common in Central Europe (Freude, Harde & Lohse, 1979, *Die Kafer Mitteleuropas* 6: 168).

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STENOPTILIA SAXIFRAGAE FLETCHER (LEP.: PTEROPHORIDAE)
NEW TO SCOTLAND. — On 27th August 1984 I took a male *S. saxifragae* from the window of an illuminated car showroom at Oldhall, Paisley. In view of the fact that this appeared to be the first record of occurrence of this moth in Scotland, the genitalia were mounted and sent to Dr. K. P. Bland who confirmed they were those of this species. — J. E. MORGAN, 35 Penilee Road, Oldhall, Paisley PA1 3EU.